

The Patton Courier

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ANOTHER ARTICLE ON ROCK DUSTING MINES

By G. B. Butterfield, General Manager of Associated Companies, of Hartford, Conn.

Experiments by the United States Bureau of Mines have proved the best rock to be used in rock dusting coal mines in order to prevent an explosion of coal dust is pure limestone, dolomite, gypsum or anhydrite. The advantage of pure limestone over other varieties of rock is that limestone dust is light in color. This serves to permit ready observation of freshly distributed coal dust, and to increase the illumination of the entries. It is also conceded that in some mines, after the entries have been rock dusted several times, the rock dust will, to some extent, keep the air from the roof, which should cause us to have a better roof in some mines. When entries have been rock dusted with limestone dust, the illumination will be increased to a very great extent and this will assist materially in reducing accidents.

The finer the size of particles of rock dust the more easily it is raised in the air with coal dust, so, it is to the advantage of those interested in coal mine explosions to use very finely pulverized rock dust and from the tests made by the United States Bureau of Mines it is necessary for rock dust to be ground until 10 per cent of it will pass through a 200 mesh sieve. The best way to rock dust the entries from the pit mouth in the working face and also the room necks is by use of mechanical equipment. Mechanical equipment is recommended since it will rock dust the mine more cheaply than hand rock dusting will, and too, due to the fact that a mechanically rock dusted mine is more thoroughly and more efficiently done.

The mechanical equipment for rock dusting consists of a motor driven fan forcing the air through a tube on the end of which is a sphere containing holes through the dust is forced. This equipment is mounted on a truck. The sphere through the rock dust operates most efficiently if held in a fixed position, as by so doing a portion of the entry whether it be the bottom of the roof or the ribs, is missed.

By experience, it has been established that a mine should be rock dusted during the first year once quarterly and during the succeeding years, generally speaking, twice annually.

The reliable rule, to follow to ascertain the correct time to rock dust a mine is for the coal mine operator to make an actual test in order to determine the percentage of incombustible dust present. To a large extent the number of times a mine will require rock dusting will be determined by the control the mine management has over the production of coal dust.

Tests of coal dust should be made by selecting an area about eight inches in width across the roadway and one from the ribs and another from the overhead timbers or roof. These samples should then be run through a ten mesh sieve and that portion of the sample which will not go through a ten mesh sieve should be rejected, and the other portion is regarded as a sample to be tested for the percentage of incombustible content. A machine is on the market which can be used for testing the percentage of incombustible content in the sample. This instrument is known as a volumeter.

The theory of the application of rock dust to coal dust is that the particles of rock dust get between the particles of coal dust and form a curtain like effect, and too, when a mixture of rock dust and coal dust is thrown into suspension, the rock dust, together with the coal dust, absorbs heat and lowers the temperature of the coal dust and therefore the coal dust cannot ignite and the explosion of coal dust is thereby prevented.

Coal mines in Europe have been rock dusted for years and to date no record can be found of a coal dust explosion in any of these rock dusted European coal mines.

In the United States several coal producing companies have adopted rock dusting. A sense of great security exists not only on the part of the operator, but the miner, as well, and too, no coal dust explosions have occurred in these mines since rock dusting has been resorted to.

The coal companies who have rock dusted have kept records of the cost, and the United States Bureau of Mines

has done some work on this subject, and it is conceded that rock dusting can be thoroughly, satisfactorily and efficiently done for less than one-half a cent a ton.

Insurance Carriers will reduce the compensation rate on rock dusting coal mines.

Coal mine operators should rock dust their coal mines not later than October 1st, due to the fact that the explosion season in coal mines starts about this time of year. The coal, dry fall air which is forced into the mine workings for ventilation purposes, naturally absorbs the moisture from the coal dust, thus leaving it in a dry and explosive state.

Undoubtedly, future conditions will reveal the fact that the successful coal producing company will be operated with satisfied employees, satisfied due to the fact that they feel a great sense of security, since the haulage roads, and room necks are rock dusted in order to prevent a coal dust explosion.

TWIN ROCKS MINER IS VERY SERIOUSLY HURT

John Shimko, aged 22, a miner for the Big Bend Collieries at Twin Rocks is in a serious condition at the Memorial hospital in Johnstown, suffering from five major injuries sustained late on Friday afternoon when he was pinned between two mine cars. He was taken to the Johnstown institution and an X-ray examination revealed a dislocation of the left hip, fracture of the right ankle, fracture of the right femur, fracture of five ribs on the left side and a fracture of the left shoulder. In addition he suffered severe lacerations of the face and body.

The injured man is the son of Mrs. Julia Shimko, who lives in the old country. He has been in America only for a short time and made his home with an uncle, George Shimko at Twin Rocks. John Shimko was born in Vinton, Va., and when a mere child was taken to Hungary by his parents. His father passed away there several years ago. John returned to this country about nine months ago. Little hope is entertained for his recovery.

Frank McGoldrick, a former Johnstown fireman, died at the Cresson sanatorium on Saturday morning at the age of 45 years. Mr. McGoldrick's death was caused by diabetes. He was not one time a well known athlete.

Mrs. JACOB ESELMAN EXPIRES AT CRESSON

Mrs. Jacob W. Eselman, who was suddenly stricken by an attack of uremic poisoning at her home at the Mountain House grounds near Cresson on Thursday evening while entertaining a number of friends at a lawn party on the occasion of her 48th birthday anniversary, died on Friday evening about 8:30 o'clock at the Eselman home. Shortly after being stricken by the illness the victim became unconscious and did not revive.

Mrs. Eselman had been in apparent good health until her sudden illness of Thursday evening when she was engaged with several of her guests at cutting the birthday cake prepared in her honor. Two physicians were immediately summoned and remained at her bedside. She passed away in Cresson county on Dec. 12, 1911, and was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Gates who now reside at Coalport. Besides her parents and husband she is survived by a brother, A. C. Gates, of Coalport; a sister, Mrs. J. B. Boyles, of Philadelphia; Philadelphia, and one son, Dr. J. Clifton Eselman.

SUPREME COURT TO REVIEW COVER CASE

The supreme court of Pennsylvania, acting through Justice Robert S. Frazer, has granted a petition for an appeal to that body by District Attorney D. E. Weimer, of Cambria County, in the case of the Commonwealth vs. Alvin Cooper, Alderman of the Sixteenth Ward of Johnstown, growing out of an alleged election fraud. The case will be argued in Pittsburgh the latter part of September.

The following marriage licenses are of record at Ebensburg since the last report of the Courier:

Steve Kovaca and Julia Mihalko, of Johnstown.

Joseph Coley, Hastings, and Mary Kopers, St. Boniface.

John Horn, Clymer, and Grace Cunningham, Nanty-Glo.

Rosa A. Ickes and Edna M. Wolfe, both of Revloc.

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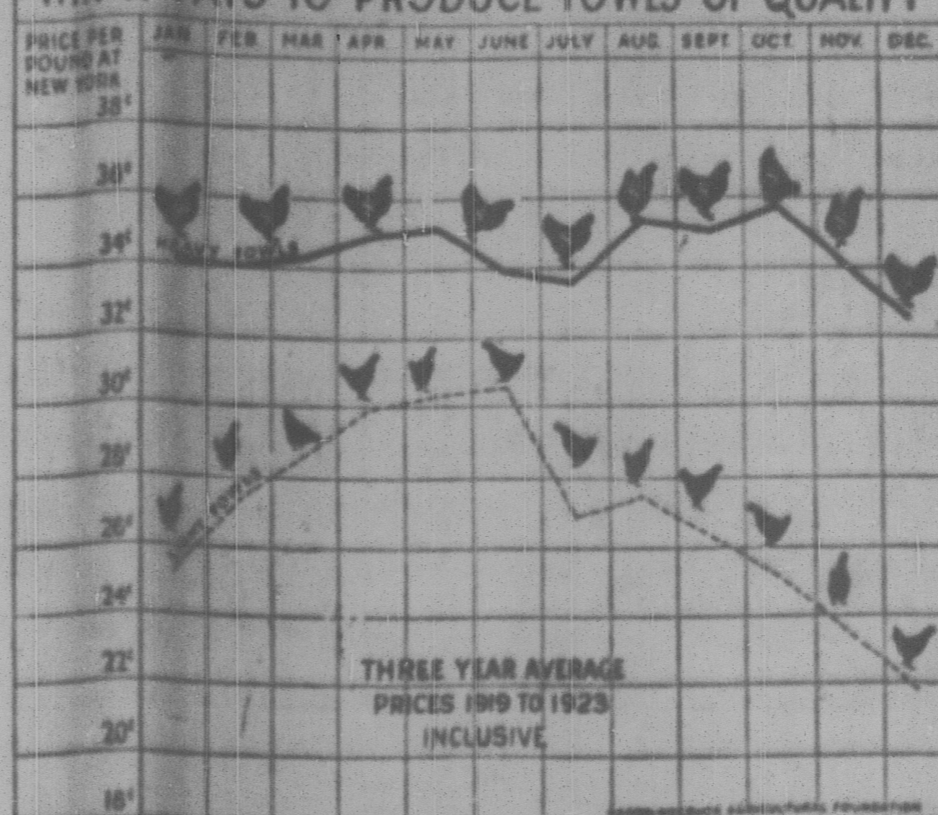
SATURDAY AUG. 23

CHICKEN DINNER AND SUPPER

GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

GOOD MUSIC

WHY IT PAYS TO PRODUCE FOWLS OF QUALITY



It's the extra pound of flesh on the fowl that cheapens production costs and commands a premium price for the poultryman. According to the Sears-Roebuck Agricultural Foundation the extra pound can be put on for from 5 to 7 cents, which increases the value of each pound to the consumer by making the entire carcass more plump and attractive, so it commands a fancy price over lighter birds. Heavy hens sell from 5 to 11 cents more than light hens. It's true all down the line—turkeys, ducks, capons, hens and young fry—the extra pound brings the extra dollar.

Over a period of three years the New York market shows heavy fresh-killed milked fowls or hens weighing 5 pounds or over to average from 4 to 11 cents higher per pound than the light fowls weighing 3 pounds. The five-year average for the month of September shows the heavy fowls to average 9 cents over the light weight, the margin broadening during October and November, reaching its height in December, when the heavy fowls range to 11 cents a pound over the light weight.

The average weight of the ordinary fowl as it comes from the farm is 3 1/2 to 4 pounds. The poultryman with the eye for business will add an extra pound or so and receive the top prices. The farmer who takes thin, underfed poultry to market is hurting himself.

The action of the supreme court temporarily sets aside the decision of the State Superior Court which reversed the decision of the Cambria county court and discharged Cover, who was convicted in the Cambria County Court of election fraud. Following his conviction in the lower court Cover had been sentenced to pay a heavy fine and undergo three months' imprisonment in the county jail at Ebensburg. Counsel for Cover took an appeal to the superior court and the case was dismissed.

Following the action of the superior court in the case District Attorney Weimer asked permission of the supreme court to file an appeal from the superior court decision. Mr. Weimer asked that the decision of the superior court be not allowed to stand without the case being reviewed by the supreme court.

Paul Rose.

Paul Rose, son of James and Anna (Hall) Rose, of Cresson, died at the parental home at 9:50 o'clock Saturday evening of cerebro spinal meningitis. Death was due to an accident sustained in an automobile accident at Cresson early last spring.

Paul Rose was born Dec. 12, 1911. Besides his parents he is survived by several brothers and sisters. Private funeral services were conducted at 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning with interment in Mt. Aloysius cemetery at the Summit.

Licensed in Ebensburg.

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Rosa A. Ickes and Edna M. Wolfe, both of Revloc.

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